

KHPA News and Events

House Appropriations Committee: KHPA will offer testimony Monday, Oct. 12, regarding proposals for a nursing home provider assessment. The meeting begins at 10 a.m. in Room 143-N, Statehouse.

Fiscal Agent Corporate Name Change: KHPA's fiscal agent contractor, EDS, has changed its name to HP Enterprise Services. EDS was acquired by HP in August of 2008, and the name change is a necessary part of the transition. Providers will begin seeing HP Enterprise Services on letterhead, envelopes, business cards and other documentation in the near future.

KHPA Monitoring Federal Health Reform

As debate continues in Washington over federal health reform, the Kansas Health Policy Authority has been analyzing proposals to determine what impact they would have on the state of Kansas.

"One thing that seems apparent in all the discussions is that if a federal health reform bill passes, states will have a large role to play in how the plan is implemented at the local level," said Andy Allison, KHPA Acting Executive Director.

Since August, Allison has attended several meetings with officials from other states and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to discuss how the various plans being considered would affect state Medicaid programs.

One of the major components being considered by both the House and Senate would be to expand eligibility for Medicaid up to 133 percent of the federal poverty level. That would include childless adults who currently are not eligible for Medicaid benefits. But the federal government would pay more than 90 percent of the cost of the newly eligible people.

"These federal proposals would represent one of the biggest changes in the Medicaid program since it began in the 1960s," Allison said.

(Continued next page)

Nick Kramer Takes Over as New I.G.

Nick Kramer officially took over Monday, Oct. 5, as the new Inspector General at the Kansas Health Policy Authority.

The KHPA Board voted to appoint Kramer to the post at its Sept. 15 meeting. The appointment is subject to confirmation by the Kansas Senate.

Since 1983, Kramer has been the internal audit manager at the Kansas Department of Revenue. In that position he has conducted internal audits and fraud investigations as well as ensuring compliance with IRS security regulations.



Nick Kramer

NEW: The U.S. Centers for Disease Control offers clinicians answers to frequent questions about the H1N1 virus. Click [here](#) for details.

Save the Date

**Monday, Oct. 12,
2:30 p.m.: Nursing
Facility Advisory
Committee Meeting**
KHPA Office, 900 SW
Jackson Ave.,
Topeka. 9th Floor,
Conf. Room E.

**Thursday, Oct. 15,
1:30—2:30 p.m.:
Health Care Access
Improvement Panel**
Kansas Hospital Asso-
ciation, 215 SE 8th
Avenue

**Monday, October
19, 2:30-4:30 p.m.
KHPA Board Fi-
nance and Audit
Committee Meet-
ing.** KHPA Office,
900 SW Jackson Ave.,
Topeka. 9th Floor,
Conf. Room E.

**Wednesday, Octo-
ber 21, 10 a.m.:
Drug Utilization Re-
view Board.** HP En-
terprise Services of-
fice (formerly "EDS")
6700 SW Topeka
Blvd., Bldg. 283, "J"
St., Topeka.

October Is Open Enrollment Time for SEHP *New Plan Offerings, Rates to Take Effect*

Open enrollment officially began Oct. 1 for members of the Kansas State Employee Health Plan. The month-long period gives SEHP members a chance to review their current health coverage and select the plan they want to use for the upcoming plan year, which begins Jan. 1.

Plan members will see a number of changes this year, including a new Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) to choose from. UMR, a UnitedHealthCare Company, will be available in 2010 in addition to the three current PPOs: Blue Cross Blue Shield; Coventry Health Care; and Preferred Health Systems.

Members who enroll in Plan A will also see increases in their monthly premiums, as well as deductibles and co-pay requirements. These increases reflect the rising cost of health care, the claims experience of that plan, and limited resources for the state's employer contribution to the plan.

KHPA has added a [special section to its website](#) with information and tools to help guide employees through the process. Employees can also attend any of more than 100 [group meetings](#) that have been scheduled throughout the state during Open Enrollment.

KHPA Monitoring Federal Health Reform

(Continued from Page 1)

Allison noted that in Kansas, the income limit for parents and caregivers to qualify for Medicaid is substantially below the federal poverty level. Pregnant women are covered up to 150 percent of poverty. The State Children's Health Insurance Program covers children in families with incomes up to 200 percent of poverty. That limit will increase to 250 percent in January 2010. Different limits apply to elderly and disabled adults.

"We would see a large number of new people coming onto the Medicaid rolls, but most of that cost would be paid by the federal government," Allison said. "At the same time, certain people above the 133-percent mark who are currently enrolled in Medicaid or SCHIP would be shifted into a reformed insurance market of some kind."

Allison said the net effect of the Medicaid provisions would be "at least" another 70,000 Kansans being enrolled through Medicaid. Whether the reform package results in a net cost or savings to the state will depend on details of the final legislation and choices the state makes in implementing it.

KHPA Pulse is a publication by the KHPA Communications Team distributed weekly during the legislative session. If you have questions or comments, contact the Public Information Officer Peter Hancock at 785/296.5603 or peter.hancock@khpas.gov

